



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION**

Suite 900 - James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0334

MEMORANDUM

TO: Files

FROM: Joe W. Matlock, Transportation Planner, Region IV
NEPA Documentation Office

DATE: September 17, 2009

SUBJECT: Programmatic Categorical Exclusion
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program – Year 1
City of Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee
Federal Project Number CM-STP-9409(42)
State Project Number 79958179994 PIN 040714

The City of Memphis is requesting that the above referenced project be classified as a categorical exclusion based on the environmental review required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The City's findings are attached.

Project Purpose

The purpose of the "CMAQ Signal Coordination - Year 1" project is to reduce delays for major street vehicular traffic, improve intersection operation efficiency, and improve air quality. The project will interconnect a total of 13 existing traffic signals on Lamar Avenue from Cleveland Street to Semmes Street. Coordinated traffic signal timings will be implemented as part of the project to increase green band and reduce number of stops on major streets. The proposed signal system will also allow the City to monitor, diagnose, and maintain local traffic controller operations from the City Hall and the Traffic Signal Maintenance Department. Air quality improvements are expected due to reduced delays in peak hour.

Project Description

The City of Memphis is proposing improvements to traffic control signals along Lamar Avenue funded through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program. The project consists of interconnecting a total of 13 existing traffic signals in the City of Memphis. Typical improvements include installing fiber optic communication cables, interconnecting existing signal controllers, installing non-intrusive system detectors, replacing signal control equipment and cabinets, and retiming of existing signals. The project location is Lamar Avenue from Cleveland Street to Semmes Street.

The Environmental Division has reviewed the proposed project for compliance with environmental laws and regulations. The project as proposed will not directly, indirectly or cumulatively have any significant environmental impacts. It is our determination that this project complies with the September 2007 Programmatic Categorical Exclusion agreement with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The attached file documents this finding.

JWM/jwm
Enclosures

CC: TDOT HQ Staff
TDOT Regional Staff
TDOT Environmental Division Staff
Mr. Ronnie Porter